



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Earl F. Hance, Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington

301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.

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FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM - 2014 RULES

1. **FMNP checks can only be redeemed for fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey* grown or produced by the farmer applicant.** Checks cannot be redeemed for tropical fruits, citrus fruits, baked goods, jams, jellies, cider, flowers, plants, eggs, nuts, cheese, meats, seafood, crafts, etc. **Honey is approved for Seniors only.*
2. **Only authorized FMNP farmers can redeem checks. Authorized FMNP farmers cannot accept FMNP checks from unauthorized farmers or vendors.**
3. All authorized FMNP farmers are required to display the **“WIC & Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program”** sign **and their associated farm name.**
4. Authorized FMNP farmers agree to meet with WIC and Senior FMNP check distribution coordinators in their respective market area, to exchange market information and check distribution information. These meetings are subject to prior arrangement and work schedules of the participants.
5. Authorized FMNP farmers cannot charge FMNP customers more for their fruits, vegetables and fresh cut herbs than they charge other customers. FMNP customers must be shown the same courtesies as all other customers and FMNP authorized farmers agree not to discriminate against any FMNP customer on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.
6. FMNP checks cannot be exchanged for cash or change. Whenever possible, authorized FMNP farmers should help FMNP customers use the full value of their checks by making up the difference with additional produce items. The FMNP customer must pay the difference when the purchase exceeds the value of the check(s).
7. Authorized FMNP farmers must check the customer's WIC Identification folder. FMNP checks must be signed in the presence of the FMNP authorized farmer and the signatures must match the identification.
8. FMNP checks are valid from June 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014. Authorized FMNP farmers will not be reimbursed for checks accepted after November 30, 2014. **All FMNP Checks must be deposited at the bank no later than December 5, 2014.**

Our paying bank will not honor FMNP checks which are missing farmer stamps, unreadable farmer stamp, invalid farmer stamp, missing FMNP participant signature, checks which have been torn, marked “VOID” or altered in any way, checks issued in a prior year or checks that have expired.



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FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM – 2014 ELIGIBLE FOODS

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks can only be used for eligible foods. Eligible foods include all locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs ***except honey*** grown by the authorized farmer. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes. Examples of ineligible foods include: honey, jams, jellies, breads, maple syrup, cider, nuts, seeds, dried plums (prunes), dried chilies or tomatoes, eggs, meat, cheese and seafood.

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM – 2014 ELIGIBLE FOODS

Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) checks can only be used for eligible foods grown by the authorized farmer. Eligible foods include all locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs ***and honey***. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes. Examples of ineligible foods include: jams, jellies, breads, maple syrup, cider, nuts, seeds, dried plums (prunes), dried chilies or tomatoes, eggs, meat, cheese and seafood.



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FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM **2014 KEY DATES**

March 13th	Maryland Farmers' Market Conference
April 1	Farmer applications due to MDA (Send to attn: Shelby Watson, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401)
May – July	FMNP and SFMNP checks issued to eligible participants (WIC & Seniors)
June 1	First date that farmers may accept FMNP/SFMNP checks at farmers' markets
June to November	Farmers may accept checks at markets
November 30	Last date that farmers may accept FMNP/SFMNP checks at farmers' markets
December 5	Last date that farmers may deposit FMNP/SFMNP checks for 2014



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FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM **2014 FARMERS' MARKET PROCEDURES**

- The farmers must be registered with the State of Maryland to accept farmers' market nutrition program vouchers.
 - First-time program vendors must receive face-to-face training.
 - All vendors must receive face-to-face training every three years.
- Farmers must display the program signs and their farm name during the market hours of operation.
- Proper procedure for accepting checks is as follows:
 - The participant selects fruits, vegetables, cut herbs or honey (see eligible foods list) up to the amount listed on the vouchers (\$5 increments).
 - The farmer accepts the voucher and asks for identification from WIC-FMNP participants (their WIC folder).
 - After ensuring that the identification matches the check, the participant then signs the check.
 - *No change may be given, but a farmer can make up any difference in value with additional products.*
- Compliance buyers ("secret shoppers") may visit farmers to ensure compliance.